

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03  
SAA-01 SES-02 ACDA-12 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /090 W  
-----070819 040157Z /15

R 020611Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9018  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USICA WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC  
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, SY, LE  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN PRESS COMMENTARY ON DESPATCH OF LEBANESE  
ARMY TO SOUTH LEBANON

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SYRIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT AUGUST 1 HERALDS ENTRY OF LAF INTO  
SOUTH LEBANON AS "A CRUCIAL PHASE REFLECTING THE DETERMINATION  
OF THE (LEBANESE) AUTHORITY IN ITS EFFORT TO ESTABLISH ITS  
INFLUENCE AND REGAIN ITS LOST PRESTIGE OVER THIS AREA."  
PEOPLE OF THE REGION ARE SAID TO SEE THIS MOVE "A BOLD STEP ...  
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TO PROCEED FROM ILLEGALITY TO LEGALITY AND FROM CHAOS TO ORDER."

2. COMMENTARY ASSERTS THAT, "WHAT APPLIES TO OTHER  
LEBANESE REGIONS MUST ALSO APPLY TO THE SOUTH. EXCEPTIONS ARE  
NOW REJECTED AND ABNORMAL CONDITIONS MUST DISAPPEAR WHATEVER  
THE RESULT AND WHATEVER THE CHALLENGES." IT DECLARES THAT,  
"THE ARMY OF LEBANON HAS BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECT-

ING ITS BORDERS FROM THE ISRAELI ENEMY AND FROM AGENTS WHO HAVE CONNECTIONS WITH THE ZIONISTS. IN THIS WAY, THE LEBANESE ARMY WILL HAVE ELIMINATED THE ABNORMAL SITUATION ARISING FROM THE STATUS OF BORDER OFFICERS, SUCH AS AGENTS SAAD HADDAD AND SAMI SHIDIAC, AND THEIR ILK. IT WILL HAVE CLOSED THE OPEN DOOR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS AGENTS AFTER BLOWING UP THE EXISTING BRIDGES OF CONTACT AND UPROOTING TREASON FROM THE SOUTH." OVER-ALL THE MOVE IS SEEN AS BOOSTING THE MORALE OF "HONEST LEBANESE AS THEY CONFRONT THE ADVOCATES OF PARTITION AND SECTARIANISM."

3. PREVIOUS DAY'S EDITORIAL ON SAME SUBJECT DEPICTS ISRAELIS AS UNHAPPY WITH THE DECISION TO SEND THE ARMY SOUTH AND ACCUSES THEM OF PREPARING TO "EXTEND EVERY ASSIST TO THEIR AGENTS, THE LIBERALS AND PHALANGISTS." AL-BAATH, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE RECENTLY, THEN PROCEEDS TO ATTACK DR. KISSINGER. "TREASON" OF CHAMOUN AND PHALANGE ARE SAID TO BE "AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SCHEME DRAWN UP BY HENRY KISSINGER, THE DEAR FRIEND OF SADAT."

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4. COMMENT: SYRIAN RHETORICAL GRASP WOULD APPEAR TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EXCEED ITS POLITICAL AND MILITARY REACH. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT SYRIANS BELIEVE THAT SHIDIAC AND HADDAD WILL BE TRIED FOR TREASON OR THAT LAF NOW CAPABLE OF CLOSING THE "GOOD FENCE" CROSSING POINTS. SYRIANS ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, TO ESTABLISH A LAF PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH OTHER THAN UNITS COMMANDED HADDAD AND SHIDIAC IN ORDER THAT CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS NOW PRESENT IN THE SOUTHERN ENCLAVES NOT BECOME RECOGNIZED AS THE LEGAL LEBANESE ARMY IN THE AREA. THEY ALSO APPARENTLY BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS IN REESTABLISHING THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY IN THE SOUTH WILL STRENGTHEN ITS HAND IN DEALING WITH THE RIGHTIST MILITIAS IN BEIRUT.

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PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT  
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**Draft Date:** 02 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** SYRIAN PRESS COMMENTARY ON DESPATCH OF LEBANESE ARMY TO SOUTH LEBANON BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PEPR, MPOL, SY, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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